



## Utah's workplace fatalities increased slightly in 2006

The Utah Labor Commission released new statistics from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries which reflect a seven percent increase in Utah fatalities in 2006. Utah had a total of **60** workplace fatalities, compared to **54** in 2005. Utah deviates from the nationwide trend which shows a slight decline of fatal work injuries from the revised total of 5,734 in 2005 to 5,703 recorded in 2006.

The **construction industry** in Utah leads with the highest number of fatalities for 2006, having a total of **15** fatal work injuries. Seven of these accidents were high-way accidents. With 25 percent, construction now replaces the transportation and utilities industries which had the highest occupational fatalities in 2005. Transportation and utilities accounted for a total of 13 fatalities, or 22 percent in 2006. Education and health services, and natural resources and mining, follow behind at seven fatal work injuries each.

Men were the victims in 54 of the Utah fatalities, or 90 percent of the 60 that occurred in 2006. This is an increase over the 2005 figure of 45, or 83 percent of the 54 fatalities that year.

White, Non-Hispanic workers accounted for 51 of the total fatalities in 2006, with Hispanic or Latino workers accounting for six fatalities.

The age group recording the highest number of fatalities was ages 45 to 54, accounting for 18 of the fatal incidents. Workers between the ages of 35 to 44 accounted for 14 fatal incidents in the same year. Workers above 55 had ten fatalities and those in the 20 to 24 age group had a total of six fatalities in 2006.

Utah Labor Commissioner, Sherrie Hayashi, said "Workplace accidents, illnesses, and deaths continue to cause untold human pain and suffering to injured Utah workers and their families. Prevention is the key to effectively ending fatalities in the workplace. Through the joint cooperation of government, business, and industry, we have made great progress over the years in continuing to initiate safety measures and remain committed to promoting safety in Utah's workplaces."

A fatality is counted in the state where the incident occurred, regardless of the state where the victim had actually been employed. This alleviates duplication of reporting in the states. Source documents such as death certificates, workers' compensation reports, news accounts, and federal and state agency administrative records are cross-referenced to gather key information about each workplace fatality. Statistics, such as the particular occupation in which the fatality occurred, worker demographics, whether or not equipment or machinery was involved, and the circumstances of the accident are then recorded. Two or more independent source documents are used to verify the work relationship of each fatal work injury.

**"Working together we can make the beautiful State of Utah a safer place to work, elevating our workplace safety and health culture to a higher level of excellence"**

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## Trick-or-Treat Safety Tips

- Carry a bright flashlight
- Wear reflective clothing
- Always walk, do NOT run
- Stay on sidewalks
- Obey ALL traffic laws
- Visit houses that have lights on
- Always use the front door
- Don't pet animals you don't know

## HAVE FUN!

### Did you know?

One cubic yard of soil can weigh 2,700 pounds or more. That's only 85 pounds lighter than a new VW Beetle!

## Utah Labor Commissioner appoints new Utah OSHA Administrator

Commissioner Sherrie Hayashi, Utah Labor Commission, recently announced the appointment of Louis M. Silva as Administrator of the Utah Occupational Safety & Health (UOSH) Division of the Utah Labor Commission. UOSH is the State Plan Program which satisfies federal OSHA requirements. Mr. Silva will fill the position vacated by Larry Patrick who left the Commission late last year.




Silva, who holds both a B.S. degree in Business Administration and also a B.S. in Accounting and Finance, brings to the position over 20 years of successful experience in business administration. His experience includes 12 years in the field of occupational safety and health management, with nine of those years devoted to managing OSHA State Plan Programs. Silva relocated from Florida in 2000 to begin his tenure with the Labor Commission as a Compliance Officer for UOSH. He was appointed as UOSH Consultation Program Manager in 2003, a position Silva has held until his recent appointment as UOSH Administrator.

“The UOSH Administrator is a very complex position”, said Commissioner Hayashi. “Although Utah has adopted a State Plan Program, we interface with federal OSHA closely and it is essential that the Administrator be proficient in both UOSH and federal OSHA standards. I am confident in Louis’ qualifications and capabilities and pleased he would accept this demanding position. He brings a great deal of experience and foresight to the position, and his successful efforts as Consultation Manager in proactively educating employers on safety and health issues, will lend great balance in enforcing occupational safety and health standards in his oversight of the Division.”

Silva believes his appointment as UOSH Administrator will afford him the opportunity to work with other government agencies, the private sector, and Utah employers and employees in pursuit of a common mission and desire: “To make our beautiful state of Utah a safer place to work; elevating the safety and health culture of Utah to a higher level of excellence”.

### OSHA 10 Hour Construction Industry classes

November 2007	January 2008	March 2008	May 2008
<u>27-28</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>19-20</u>	<u>21-22</u>
July 2008	September 2008	November 2008	
<u>16-17</u>	<u>24-25</u>	<u>19-20</u>	

There is no cost to the employer or employees for the OSHA 10 Hour Class. Each employee that completes the 10 hour training will be issued a 10 Hour Occupational Safety and Health Training Course card, issued by the U.S. Department of Labor. An employee must attend all 10 hours to receive the card. All classes will be held in Room 1026 at the State Tax Commission Building, located at 210 North 1950 West, SLC. Classes begin each day promptly at noon and end, promptly at 5:00PM.

### Roofing installation with proper guardrails.



### NOTICE TO ALL CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

Utah OSHA is notifying all employers utilizing fall protection that as of January 1, 2005, Utah OSHA is **no longer** recognizing the **Interim Fall Protection Guidelines**. State plan states are required to be as effective or more stringent than the federal regulations.

**The interim protection guidelines allowed alternate work practices due to the infeasibility of applying all the requirements of the standard. However, due to improvements in the availability of higher protection in the construction industry the interim protection is no longer needed.**

The construction industry standard for fall protection 1926 Subpart M Fall Protection must be followed for all fall protection purposes subject to Subpart M in the construction industry. The UOSH compliance assistance newsletter will contain details on the various work practices affected by this change. Subscribe to the UOSH newsletter at: [www.uosh.utah.gov](http://www.uosh.utah.gov)